

Special Executive Committee Minutes
Thursday, August 8, 2019 – 6 PM • Council Chambers

Item	Presented By:	Action	Topic	Report
Call to Order & Roll Call	Stefan Densmore		Stefan Densmore, Chair Danny Kneipp Lou Marx Roger Van Harn – Resident Ashley Snyder Resident Matt Boettcher, Finance Liaison Ron Hirth, Administrator Andy Lanser, Fiscal Officer Terry Donnellon, Solicitor	Mr. Densmore opened the meeting at 6 PM DST. Mr. Marx was absent. Motion to excuse Mr. Marx by Mr. Densmore. Second by Mr. Boettcher. All in favor.
Set the Agenda & Adopt	Mr. Densmore	Review & Motion		This meeting has been called by the Committee chair specifically to discuss the provisions and processes related to proposed Village Ordinance ORD 2019-10: An Ordinance to Combat Discrimination and for the Guarantee of Equality and Inclusion. Motion to adopt the Agenda by Mr. Densmore. Second by Mr. Kneipp. All in favor.
Persons Registered to Address the Committee	None			Individuals in attendance permitted to register for comment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alana Jochum, Attorney and Executive for Equality Ohio Natalie Wolf, 7024 Beech Hollow Dr. Amberley Village 45236 Steve Simiele, 2626 Canterbury Ave A. D. Motzen 2179 Blue Grass Lane Elaine Moscovitz 2426 Canterbury Ave
Minutes to be Approved	Mr. Lanser	Review & Motion	None	None

Discussion				
Business	Mr. Donnellon	Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History 	<p>Click to review or download: Draft ORD 2019 - 10</p> <p>Initial impetus for proposed ordinance occurred after similar legislation was adopted by other communities, including Amberley Village. Mr. Donnellon was tasked by Council to research and draft such an ordinance for the Village based upon best practices and model ordinances from peer jurisdictions. Throughout entire process, Mr. Donnellon has sought commentary and feedback from the community and local stake holders.</p> <p>First draft of the proposed Ordinance was produced in March 2019 and presented to the Executive Committee. Subsequent versions were produced periodically based upon input and feedback from Rabbi Motzen and Equality Ohio. In addition, Mr. Donnellon has kept the Committee updated to legislative developments in the area of the proposed Ordinance at the State and Federal levels as well as challenges to similar ordinances from other jurisdictions.</p> <p>Throughout process several questions have emerged concerning the ordinance by members of the Executive Committee. These questions regard process, mediation, qualifications and training requirements of those individuals selected to serve on the proposed Huna Rights Commission, and timelines for filing complaints to the commission, among others.</p> <p>Because members of the Executive Committee continue to have questions regarding these matters, this special meeting was arranged to answer them. Mr. Donnellon reiterated that when the proposed Ordinance is brought before Council, the schedule for approving the proposed Ordinance would remain the same as any other legislation; requiring three readings and providing ample opportunities for additional feedback and Council to amend it.</p>
	Mr. Hirth			<p>When Mr. Hirth was the Mayor, his responsibility was to identify solutions and ways to move the Village forward. In this vein he was approached by members of Council and the community to do something in this area. However, due to time and capacity restraints several other items were of a higher priority to the Village. Since that time however, Mr. Hirth became the Village Administrator and significant progress has been achieved in the four Village priorities. As a result, now both Administration and Council now has the capacity to explore the adoption of an ordinance such as this.</p> <p>Mr. Hirth reiterated that the Village does not currently have a discrimination problem, yet a good legislative body will be one that is proactive, not reactive.</p>

	Mr. Densmore	Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of Session 	<p>Several specific opinions and questions have been raised concerning the proposed ordinance. The goal of the session is to provide commentary and feedback concerning each of them. A summary of those opinions/questions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed legislation doesn't address an actual problem in the Village 2. Several protections that would be codified in this ordinance are already provided at a higher level of government 3. Proposed ordinance will open the Village to being sued 4. Some people will try to take advantage of the ordinance, and as a response will attempt to force the Village into crafting tests to measure the merits of their claims 5. Are the resources going into this proposed ordinance, and the possible ramifications of passage, worth it to the Village since it would only affect a small portion of residents? 6. That the proposal ordinance is a marketing gimmick for the Village 7. Will the same goals of the proposed ordinance be achieved by issuing a resolution or proclamation?
	Mr. Jochum			<p>Ms. Jochum, attorney and Executive Director of Equality Ohio was invited to provide expert opinion regarding the questions and opinions presented.</p> <p>Motion for a five-minute break to allow public to register to speak by Mr. Densmore. Second by Ms. Snyder. All in favor.</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natalie Wolf, 7024 Beech Hollow Drive ○ Steve Simiele, 2626 Canterbury Avenue 	<p>As Vice Mayor of Amberley Village, she brought forth similar legislation there. She commends the Village for considering this ordinance. Amberley Village passed a weaker version human rights resolution, and in her opinion alienated some residents there. Ms. Wolf urges the Village to pass the strong ordinance that is presented and not a resolution like Amberley did. She stated that a resolution is a nice way to encourage recycling, plant trees, and the like; but not an appropriate vehicle to convey to those individuals in your community that they have the same rights as their neighbors.</p> <p>Since the Village began working on this issue, he has heard several personal accounts that outline why the Village should adopt this ordinance. Yet, he has also heard several members question the need to adopt it for several reasons. Mr. Simiele stated that the</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A.D. Motzen, 2179 Blue Grass Lane ○ Elaine Moscovitz, 2426 Canterbury Avenue 	<p>most effective legislative bodies are proactive, and not reactive. This Ordinance extends protections to those residing in the Village in order to fully integrate them into the Village community. Stated that Council's job is to pass laws to protect the safety and well-being of all residents of the Village. Mr. Simiele asked the Committee to be true leaders and do the right thing.</p> <p>Sandy Foglesong spoke in support of Mr. Simiele and wanted her support on the record.</p> <p>Mr. Motzen thanked Mr. Donnelon for the continued opportunity to provide feedback to the proposed ordinance. For Mr. Motzen the question concerning the Ordinance is whether the proposed Ordinance would burden an individual's religious beliefs? In his opinion it does. And for this reason, Mr. Motzen believes the language of the proposed Ordinance should provide broader protections for the religious community like that found in the City of Cincinnati's ordinance. Mr. Motzen hopes to continue to work together with the Village and provide strong religious exemptions to avoid the inevitable conflicts.</p> <p>Ms. Moscovitz began by thanking Council for working on this ordinance for equality and inclusion. Ms. Moscovitz stated that she grew up in the Village and eventually moved back because of the Village's reputation of being inclusive. Furthermore, Ms. Moscovitz stated that the communities that prioritize inclusion and equality are the communities that are experiencing the greatest economic impact. As a long-term property owner and resident, she wants nothing more than when telling people that she lives in Golf Manor, they respond positively. Ms. Moscovitz believes that adopting this ordinance will allow this to happen.</p>
	Mr. Boettcher		Religious Exemptions	<p>Mr. Boettcher asked in what situations would religious organizations or people of faith have their religious rights infringed upon?</p> <p>Mr. Donnelon responded that the City of Cincinnati provided a blanket protection for religious institutions in their ordinance. For Mr. Donnelon the question of legitimate religious orthodoxy will be a test for the community and a source of ongoing debate.</p>
	Mr. Kneipp		Report	<p>Stated that it's difficult to fully understand both sides of an issue. Furthermore, it's important to recognize how hard it is to know what "right" is. Mr. Kneipp read prepared remarks that outlined several questions he has concerning the passage of the Ordinance.</p>

	Mr. Van Harn		Reports	Mr. Van Harn stated the process of reviewing the proposed ordinance has been both an amazing experience and a struggle. Mr. Van Harn also stated that the Village must balance compassion and costs. So, in order to be prepared to vote on the proposal he needs to know these items in more detail than he currently does. His goal is to have an ordinance that the Village could be proud of and be used as a model for the rest of the State. To do this, the Committee and the Council should work towards a consensus on the proposed ordinance.
Adjourn				Motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm by Mr. Densmore Second by Mr. Van Harn All voted in favor.

Submitted by Andy Lanser, Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

Stefan Densmore, Committee Chair

Date: _____

Anna Gedeon, Asst. Clerk

Date: _____